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about the colony in so many of its aspects that nearly every one, from the merchant and mariner to the tourist and health-seeker, is likely to find in these official pages what he desires to learn about New Zealand. Here is a suggestive statement relating to the Maori:

So long as the Maori kept to their originally-known colours—black, white and red—in the ornamentation of their houses and clothing the effect was harmonious and pleasing, but when they obtained European paints, dyes and coloured fabrics they were guilty of combinations of colour offensive to the cultivated eye.

Joseph Dombey. *Sa Vie, son Œuvre, sa Correspondance.* By Dr.

E. T. Hamy. cx and 434 pp., Map, and Illustrations. (Librairie Orientale & Americaine.) E. Guilmoto, Paris, 1905. (Price, fr. 7.50.)

Joseph Dombey was a physician of the latter part of the eighteenth century whose attainments in archæology were considerable, though he was above all a naturalist. Turgot sent him to Peru and Chile especially to study their flora, and eight years of his life (1778-1785) were given to this arduous undertaking. Returning to France on the eve of her terrible period of internal political troubles, Dombey became involved in difficulties, and he died while yet he had published practically nothing. Dr. Hamy's book has been printed at the cost of several French societies in order to preserve the results of Dombey's scientific labours, which were found almost entirely in his correspondence. The recital of the main facts of his life and an appreciation of his work fill about one-fifth of the book, and the correspondence occupies the remainder.

Nordamerika. Von Dr. Emil Deckert. Second Edition. xii and 608 pp., 130 Illustrations, 12 Maps, and 21 Tables. Bibliographisches Institut, Leipzig, 1904.

In the first edition of "Allgemeine Länderkunde," the whole of America was treated in one volume no larger than this book, which is devoted to North America alone. This is one of many evidences that it is now more difficult than ever to generalize or summarize in short compass the accumulated information concerning our continent which the numerous scientific bureaux of the United States, Canada, and Mexico are constantly putting into book form. Dr. Decker wrote on North America in the first edition, and now, with twice the space at his command, and with richer materials, his book has a large variety of new contents, though its form and plan are unchanged. In undertaking such a task Dr. Deckert possessed the advantage of having travelled very extensively in North America and with the leisure to study its geographical and other aspects.

As the book treats of all phases of North American geography, none of the numerous topics can be exhaustively handled. What it does is to give a faithful picture of the continent in its most prominent organic and inorganic aspects; and in this we have seen no superior work.

A Book on Essex County, Mass.—Mr. John Henry Sears of Salem, Mass., has just illustrated the fact that there is opportunity for exploration at home. He has written a book "The Physical Geography, Geology, Mineralogy, and Paleontology of Essex County, Massachusetts," which will be of much value to residents of that neighbourhood. It is not often that we have an opportunity to dip into the earth studies with a book before us treating of the subject as far as it relates to our immediate surroundings. This is an advantage that the people of Essex County may now enjoy. They do not need to go outside of their own